

**FINAL**  
**DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE**  
**FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGES (FIRING LINE AREAS)**  
**PARCELS 100Q AND 101Q**  
**FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY**

**SEPTEMBER 2005**

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES  
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q, at the former Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The location of the parcels at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing

environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by ADEM.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q. The background documents for Parcels 100Q and 101Q are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or

realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

**SITE BACKGROUND**

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 100Q AND 101Q

EDAW, Inc., 1997, *Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama*, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation, 2000, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2005, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, September.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2001, *Archives Search Report Maps (Revision 1), Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, September.

connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q, are located south of Falcon Road near the northern-central boundary of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). According to the *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS), Parcels 100Q and 101Q are two of seven former rifle/machine gun ranges that were identified in the northern portion of the Main Post. The dates of operation and specific types of weapons fired at these ranges are unknown. Based on the orientation of the firing lines and range safety fans, the direction of

fire at these ranges was to the southeast (ESE, 1998).

The area of investigation for the SI was an approximately 25-acre area that included the firing lines and small portions of the range safety fans for Parcels 100Q and 101Q. The portions of Parcels 100Q and 101Q that extend beyond the area of investigation, including the probable impact areas, were addressed in separate SIs.

### SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcels 100Q and 101Q were categorized as CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels in the

EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal, but do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Parcels 100Q and 101Q were qualified for the potential presence of chemicals of concern (e.g., lead) as a result of historical range activities.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 100Q and 101Q will remain CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels.

### SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges, Parcels 100Q and 101Q, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of historical mission-related Army activities (Shaw, 2005). The SI consisted of the

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Telephone: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Houston Cole Library**

9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Paula Barnett-Ellis (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

collection of 21 surface soil samples, 21 subsurface soil samples, 5 groundwater samples, 3 surface water samples, and 3 sediment samples. Groundwater samples were collected from three monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. All samples were analyzed for metals and explosive compounds; approximately 25 percent of the samples were analyzed for a broader list of constituents, including volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, and herbicides. Two of the five groundwater samples were analyzed for VOCs only to confirm prior sampling results.

Metals and VOCs were detected in the various site media. In addition, one pesticide compound was

detected in one soil sample. SVOCs, herbicides, and explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. To determine the presence or absence of contamination, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). Site metals data were further

evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site samples were naturally occurring or if they contained a component of contamination.

Constituents detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background were identified as chemicals of potential concern (COPC) in site media. COPCs were limited to five metals (aluminum, arsenic, iron, lead, and manganese) in soil, and one VOC (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane) in groundwater. Although 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane exceeded its SSSL in one groundwater sample, the compound was not detected in two subsequent samples collected from the same well. Therefore, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane was not

considered a chemical of concern in groundwater.

The statistical and geochemical evaluation determined that the metals detected in soil were all naturally occurring except for lead in four surface soil samples. Of the four elevated lead results, only one result (404 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) exceeded the residential SSSL (400 mg/kg) in the 21 surface soil samples collected. All other lead results in soil were below the SSSL. Lead was not considered a threat to human health given its limited spatial distribution in soil and the small amount by which it exceeded its SSSL.

Constituents detected at concentrations exceeding ESVs and background were identified as constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC). COPECs included several metals in surface soil and two metals (copper and lead) in sediment. The statistical and geochemical evaluation determined that the metals detected in site media were all naturally occurring except for lead in four surface soil samples and in two sediment samples. Lead concentrations (192 to 404 mg/kg) exceeded its ESV (50 mg/kg for surface soil; 30 mg/kg for sediment) and background (40 mg/kg for surface soil; 38 mg/kg for sediment) in four of 21 surface soil samples and two of three sediment samples. The elevated lead concentrations were sporadically distributed within the area of investigation and were

deemed isolated "hotspots" rather than widespread contamination. Furthermore, the property is projected for industrial reuse (EDAW, 1997). Therefore, the potential threat to ecological receptors at this site was considered insignificant.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q. There are no costs associated with the no-action alternative.

#### **DECLARATION**

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q. The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the site or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. There are no remedial costs associated with implementing no further action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Ranges (Firing Line Areas), Parcels 100Q and 101Q.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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Environmental Coordinator  
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## ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
COPC	chemical of potential concern
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

**Prepared under direction of:**

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Date

**Reviewed by:**

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Ronald M. Levy  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

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Date

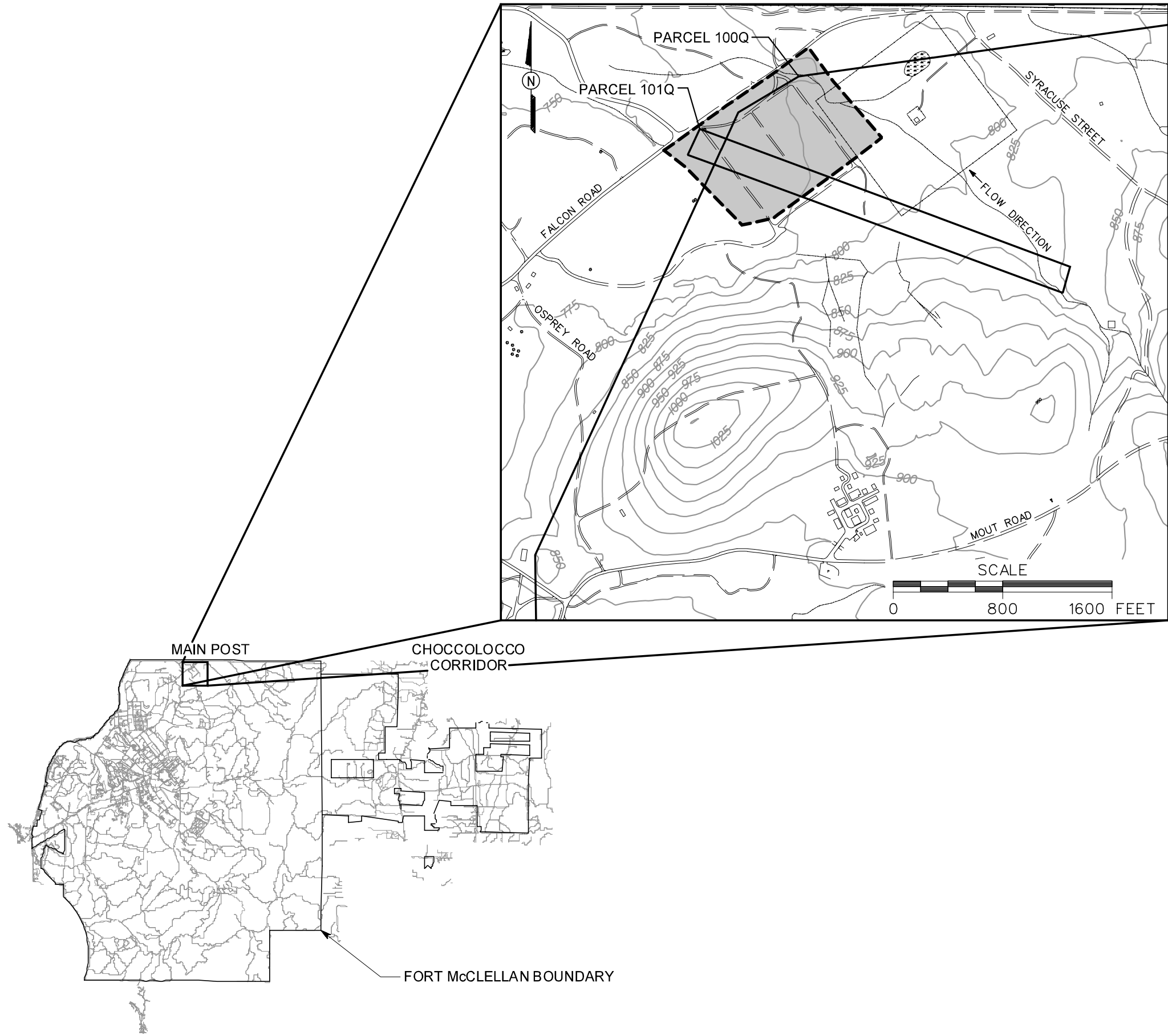
**Approved by:**

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Gary E. Harvey  
Site Manager  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

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Date



- LEGEND**
- UNIMPROVED ROAD
  - PAVED ROAD AND PARKING
  - BUILDING
  - TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOUR (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 25 FOOT)
  - MARSH / WETLANDS
  - PARCEL BOUNDARY
  - AREA OF INVESTIGATION
  - SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK
  - FENCE

**FIGURE 1**  
**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
**FORMER RIFLE / MACHINE GUN**  
**RANGES (FIRING LINE AREAS)**  
**PARCELS 100Q AND 101Q**

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
MOBILE DISTRICT  
FORT McCLELLAN  
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA  
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018